Austin American-Statesman

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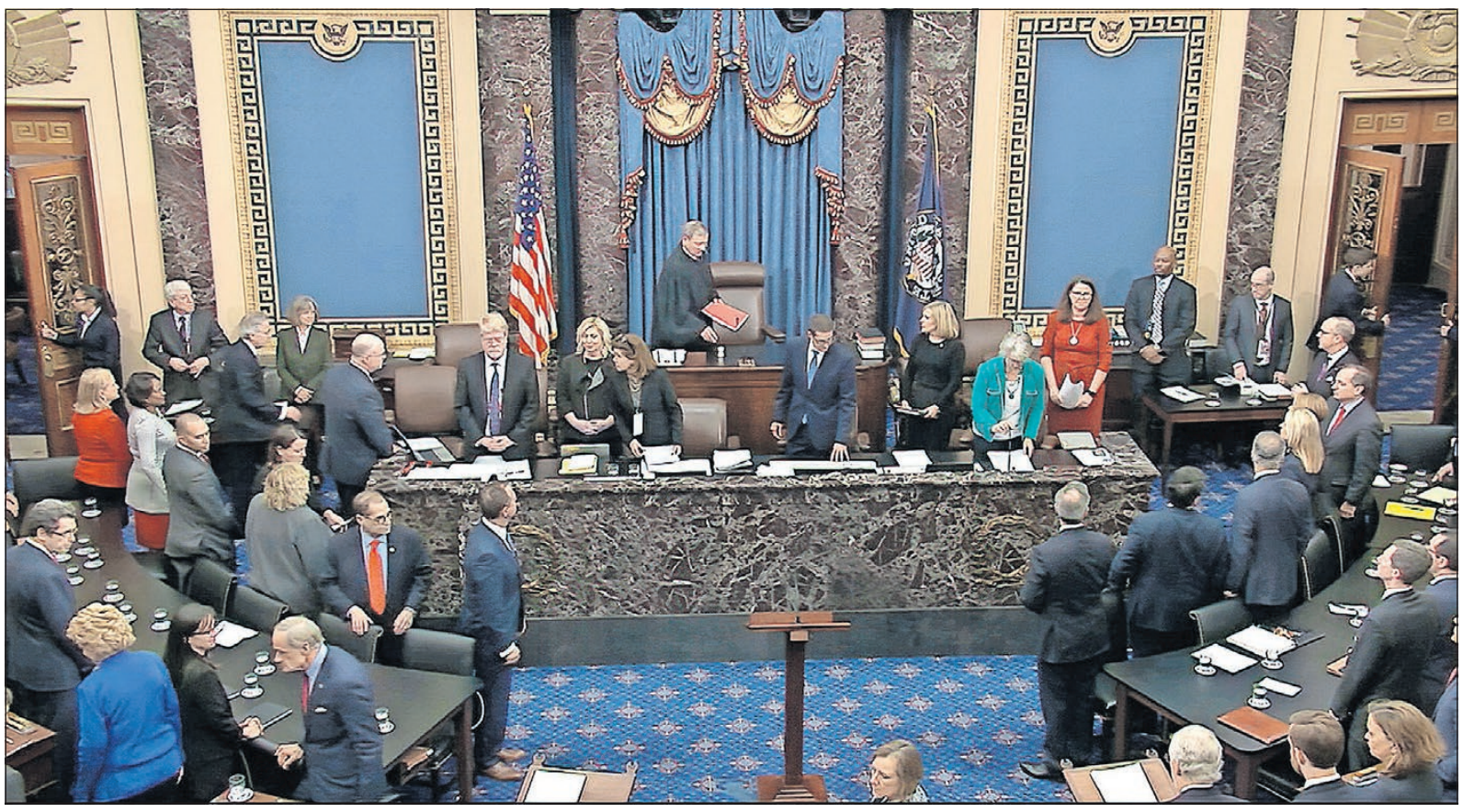
SENATE IMPEACHMENT TRIAL

TRUMP ACQUITTED

Romney breaks with GOP on abuse of power charge

All Democratic senators vote guilty on both charges



Chief Justice of the United States John Roberts arrives Wednesday for the vote in the impeachment trial against President Donald Trump in the Senate. The Senate fell far short of the two-thirds vote needed to remove the president. [SENATE TELEVISION IMAGES VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

Split Senate clears president on both counts

By Lisa Mascaro and Mary Clare Jalonick
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump won impeachment acquittal Wednesday in the U.S. Senate, bringing to a close only the third presidential trial in American history with votes that split the country, tested civic norms and fed the tumultuous 2020 race for the White House.

A majority of senators expressed unease with Trump's pressure campaign on Ukraine that resulted in the two articles of impeachment. But the final tallies — 52-48 favoring acquittal of abuse of power, 53-47 of obstruction of Congress' investigation — fell far short. Two-thirds "guilty" votes would have been needed to reach the Constitution's bar of high crimes and misdemeanors to convict and remove Trump from office.

The outcome Wednesday followed months of remarkable impeachment proceedings, from Speaker Nancy Pelosi's House to Mitch McConnell's Senate, reflecting the nation's unrelenting partisan divide three years into the Trump presidency.

What started as Trump's request for Ukraine to "do us a favor" spun into a far-reaching, 28,000-page report compiled by House investigators accusing an American president of engaging in shadow diplomacy that threatened U.S. foreign relations for personal, political gain as he pressured the ally to investigate Democratic rival Joe Biden ahead of the next election.

No president has ever been removed by the Senate.

A politically emboldened Trump has eagerly predicted vindication,

See TRIAL, A6

More inside

- Trump uses State of the Union to campaign; Pelosi rips up speech, **A5**
- Texans in Congress react to Trump's acquittal, **A6**
- Trump won. Now get ready for the fallout, **A6**

Jurors swayed by racism in death penalty case?

Texas acknowledges jurors' racial bias but says no proof bias affected decision to sentence man to death

By Brandi Swicegood
bswicegood@gatehousemedia.com

NEW ORLEANS — Andre Thomas is blind because he gouged out his own eyes and ate one of them.

He is incarcerated because he stabbed his white wife, their young son and her infant toddler, cutting out their hearts before stabbing himself.

And he is on death row because an all-white jury in the North Texas town of Sherman — infamous for a 1930 lynching and race riot triggered by allegations that a black man raped a white woman — condemned the now-36-year-old black man to die.

On Wednesday, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals heard arguments from Thomas' lawyers who contend that the jury was so racially

See THOMAS, A7

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HORNS' BUILDING BLOCKS

UT defensive makeover starts with fortifying its front

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COOL CROCHET

Austin artist's yarn creations win international attention

Loughran vying to replace sheriff who fired him

Ex-Travis County deputy's grief over fallen colleague has shaped campaign

By Katie Hall
khall@statesman.com

The traumatic loss of a fellow Travis County sheriff's deputy in 2014 has helped shape John Loughran's campaign platform in his bid to run the sheriff's office that fired him.

Loughran, 50, one of several candidates challenging Travis County Sheriff Sally Hernandez for her seat, was fired from the sheriff's office three years ago, and much of his disciplinary history is related to incidents that happened after the drowning

See LOUGHRAN, A4

About this story

This is the first of three-part series that profiles the Democratic candidates in the race for Travis County sheriff.
Friday: Liz Donegan
Saturday: Sally Hernandez

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TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sunny	*Sunny*	*Mostly sunny*
55° / 37°	*72° / 43°*	*67° / 47°*

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